

Serial No. 10/649,965
Reply to Office Action dated May 13, 2005

Docket No. 1232-5119

REMARKS**Claim Status**

Claims 1, 8, 10, 13, 16, 20, 22 and 25-45 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 20, 22, 26, 28-34, 36, 38-43 and 45 have been allowed, claims 16 and 37 are objected to and claims 13, 25, 27, 35, and 44 are rejected.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1, 8, 10, 20, 22, 26, 28-34, 38-43, and 45 have been allowed and for the indication that claims 16 and 37 include allowable subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16 and 37- objected to for depending from a rejected base claim but indicated as otherwise including allowable subject matter, have been amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims from which they respectively depend. Specifically, claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of former pending and herein canceled claim 13. Similarly, claim 37 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of former pending and herein canceled claim 35. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Accordingly, amended claims 16 and 37 are believed to be allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13, 25, 27, 35, and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,206,677 to Onuki et al.

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the pending claims and of the teachings attributed to the prior art in the stated rejections, and

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respectfully traverses these rejections, in order to expedite allowance, rejected claims 3, 25, 27, 35, and 44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering their rejection moot. Applicant none-the-less reserves the right to pursue these canceled claims in a continuing application. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

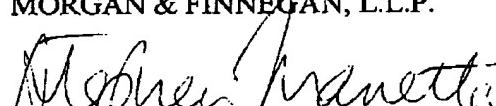
In view of the foregoing, all rejections and objections having been addressed, as there are no outstanding rejections or objections remaining and only allowed or allowable claims remain, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary for the filing of this paper. However, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5119.

If any outstanding issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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